



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

June 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is important for all our relatives, all our Native voices to be able to communicate within our reservation boundaries and beyond. At the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, we have a "checkerboard" reservation - meaning we have four areas (Districts) that make up our reservation, and then of course have members in the "urban" area. We have approximately 4,000 enrolled members living on or near the reservation, urban area, and across the entire United States. I have personally observed how the absence of broadband, difficulties in obtaining connectivity, and the challenges in obtaining other communications services, have made education, health care, public safety, job creation, and the operation of government difficult. We do a very good job and yet we strive to better serve our communities and welcome an advanced technology system to ensure a better quality of life for our members.

I hope this can help tell the story of the status of communications access for Native Nations.

Sincerely,

Barb Benjamin-Robertson
Urban Program Administrator

DISTRICT I

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

DISTRICT II

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT IIA

2605 Chiminising Drive • Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676-3432

DISTRICT III

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (320) 384-6190

URBAN OFFICE

1433 E. Franklin Avenue, Ste. 7c • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257